



PWARC "SPARKS"

NEWSLETTER OF THE PUEBLO WEST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.pwarc.com

June 2019

President's Corner

Pueblo West High School found a worthy student for our 2019 scholarship. It was my honor to present Arthur Maes with the announcement letter. He is a very suitable selection and is pursuing studies in electrical engineering. He plans to attend Pueblo County Community College and transfer to a 4-year institution when he exhausts opportunities for EE instruction at PCCC, a frugal and effective plan. I plan on inviting him to our Field Day activities.

Our neighbor to the East, PARC, has arranged for a guest speaker from DHS/FEMA for their June 10 meeting. Brad Fox invited us to attend. The speaker is out of Florida. He just might know a thing or two about hazardous weather... The meeting is at the Sheriff's Emergency Management facility at 6PM on June 10. Hope to see you there.

If you have items that should be placed on the meeting agenda, please call, text, or email me no later than June 12 (before our general meeting).

Bob James KEØHLU

rej6.02@gmail.com

208-244-1296

Net Report

From Dan W0OJW, Net Manager

May's PWARC nets were as pleasant as the aroma of May's blooming roses. Thanks to all check-ins!

5-7: NCS KB0FD; minutes 17; stations 11.
5-14: NCS W0OJW; minutes 18; stations 8.
5-21: NCS W0OJW; minutes 22; stations 11.
5-28: NCS W0OJW; minutes 32; stations 14.

Merry Field Day season, from ol' W0OJW.

Birthdays 2019

June		
6/5	Del	KD0RRH
6/8	Richard	KD8WJ
6/17	Frank	KB0FD

July		
7/2	Rick	KE0MSM
7/14	Roger	KE5CCJ
7/29	Don	AD0RQ

June Club Calendar

RAG CHEW: 9AM SAT June 1 at the Hen House in PW

CLUB GENERAL MEETING: 9AM Sat June 15 in Room A PW Library

FIELD DAY: June 22-23, Lovell Park; set up starts at 7 AM SAT

Ham Thoughts – more CW and Me, 4

I submit that the only wrong way to send CW is the way that doesn't work for you. I developed my CW-sending fist on the handle of a regular old code key - called a "straight key" in the ham biz. A long stretch of brass-pounding on a straight key could easily tire your fist. But even the cheapest key has enough adjustments for tension and sensitivity to create a surprisingly pleasant sending session.

Most hams now go for the "paddles," more formally known as an iambic key. Here, you have two keys sitting side-saddle and back-to-back. This setup is less labor-intensive. Simply tap or hold a finger on either the dit or dah key to get what you want. And the keyer in your rig does the actual brass-pounding. But here, your fist must be on its toes, so you don't touch a key too long or quickly. And you must adjust your paddles to help you out.

There are also mechanical paddles, called "bugs." The dash lasts as long as you press its key. Adjustments are made for the dot key to keep vibrating on and off as long as the key is held, and the spring oscillations keep going. Bugs are a trick to adjust - and anyone who can smoothly use one deserves a medal, in my book.

Or you can ditch the key entirely and send with a keyboard! If you have physical limitations, or you just can't get the keying down, or you just want to use a keyboard – go for it. You will have to be a good touch typist or a quick hunter-and-pecker.

I've spent over 40 years with the straight key, and I've been known to keep it going at 20 words a minute. I only got into paddles because that's all one Field Day station had. Then I got my own set, as I figured it'd be a good skill to learn. My accuracy is still better with a straight key, though I'm working on it. A straight key allows me more easily to change sending speeds and send complex information. But paddles are useful when a QSO has hit its stride or when working a CW net - where you would want to maintain a particular speed.

Whatever sending or receiving method(s) you choose, there are many abbreviations and symbols to greatly assist you. I'll show some our next time. And there are other hams that will show you even more! – Dan W0OJW

PUEBLO WEST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 7486, Pueblo West, Colorado 81007

208-244-1296

PWARC REPEATER: 447.450 (-) PL 123.0

CLUB OFFICERS 2019

KE0HLU Bob James President
W0OJW Dan Wantuck Vice-President
KE0GMS Randy Linnen Treasurer
KE0MSM Rick Stiphout Secretary
N1TEW Neal Tew Director
N3CMG Dan Bassak Director
NG0T Dan Broadbrooks Director
KE5CCJ Roger Ashcraft Past President

Remaining Meetings For 2019

GENERAL MEETINGS SAT 9AM (Room A)

June 15 ←

October 19

July 13

November 16

August 17

December 14

September ??TBD

BOARD MEETINGS WED 1 PM (Lamb Room):

July 3 ←

November 6

September 11

RAG CHEWS will continue the first Saturday of every month at 9AM in the back room at the Hen House, PW

Remaining Club Events For 2019

LIBERTY POINT 5K RUN: JULY 4

FOX HUNT: TBD in September

JOTA: TBD

MAKERS FAIRE: TBD

Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club Membership Application / Renewal

(PLEASE PRINT)

Date: _____ New: _____ or Renewal: _____ (Renewals fill in name/call sign/any changes)

Call Sign _____ Class _____ Expires _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Primary: _____ Phone Secondary: _____

E-mail _____

ARRL Member? _____ Birth (Month/Day) _____

What are your major interests in the hobby? _____

Bands & Modes operated _____

Other Interests _____

Membership: Individual _____ Family _____ If family, include separate application for each individual - Please enclose annual dues as follows:

Adult: **\$20.00**

Age 18 or younger: **\$ 7.50**

Family **\$37.00** (3 or more individuals of immediate family)

Questions? Email to info@pwarc.com or call 208-244-1296. Send this application with check or money order to PWARC, P.O. Box 7486, Pueblo West, CO 81007 or drop it off at any club meeting.